

431 to set to on them at once. These nuts are used for food
 262 by this people, and very sweet they are to a hungry
 252 man. One of the favourite ways of preparing them is
 to boil them, then take off their jackets and pound the
 fruit into a paste, then reboil and mix it well up with
 millet or rice. It was considered a great delicacy to
 mix the pounded chestnuts with the eggs of salmon and
 boil them together. But this concoction adheres so
 tenaciously to the teeth and gums that one cannot get
 along without a good, strong tooth-pick. Being fond of
 chestnuts, I ate up my little present with gusto. But
 after that, I never again accepted peeled, boiled chest-
 nuts, for I saw afterwards that the women and children
 took the jackets off them with their teeth! I pre-
 ferred mine with their coats on, for this appeared to me
 to be the more hygienic way.

492 While on this journey it was necessary to cross a
 deep river in a ferry barge. The horse I was riding
 was a very stubborn one and utterly refused to enter
 it. The master of the barge told me to remount and
 jump him in, which I did without accident. But, alas,
 when about half way across, the brute jumped over the
 side, carrying me and all my baggage with him. My
 horse, baggage, and I went well under water at first,
 but at last reached the other side safely. While my
 clothes were drying, I asked the Japanese landlady
 • [495] at whose inn we had immediately put up, to get me
 something to eat. Some time later, a nice little bird
 was brought me to feast upon, which I took to be a
 woodcock. Having eaten it up with relish, I was told
 by the boy who waited on me that it was not a wood-
 cock, as I supposed, but a little chicken which got sick
 and had died the day before!

593 As we were passing through a certain village, a
 578 woman rushed out of her house and asked me to step
 in and flog her husband! "But why?" I asked.
 "What has he been doing now?" Said she, "He is in-